DARK HORSE COMICS
CURIOUS OBJECTS
1 OF 2
LADY BALTIMORE
THE DAUGHTERS OF MEDUSA
MIKE MIGNOLA
CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN
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LADY BALTIMORE™

THE DAUGHTERS OF MEDUSA

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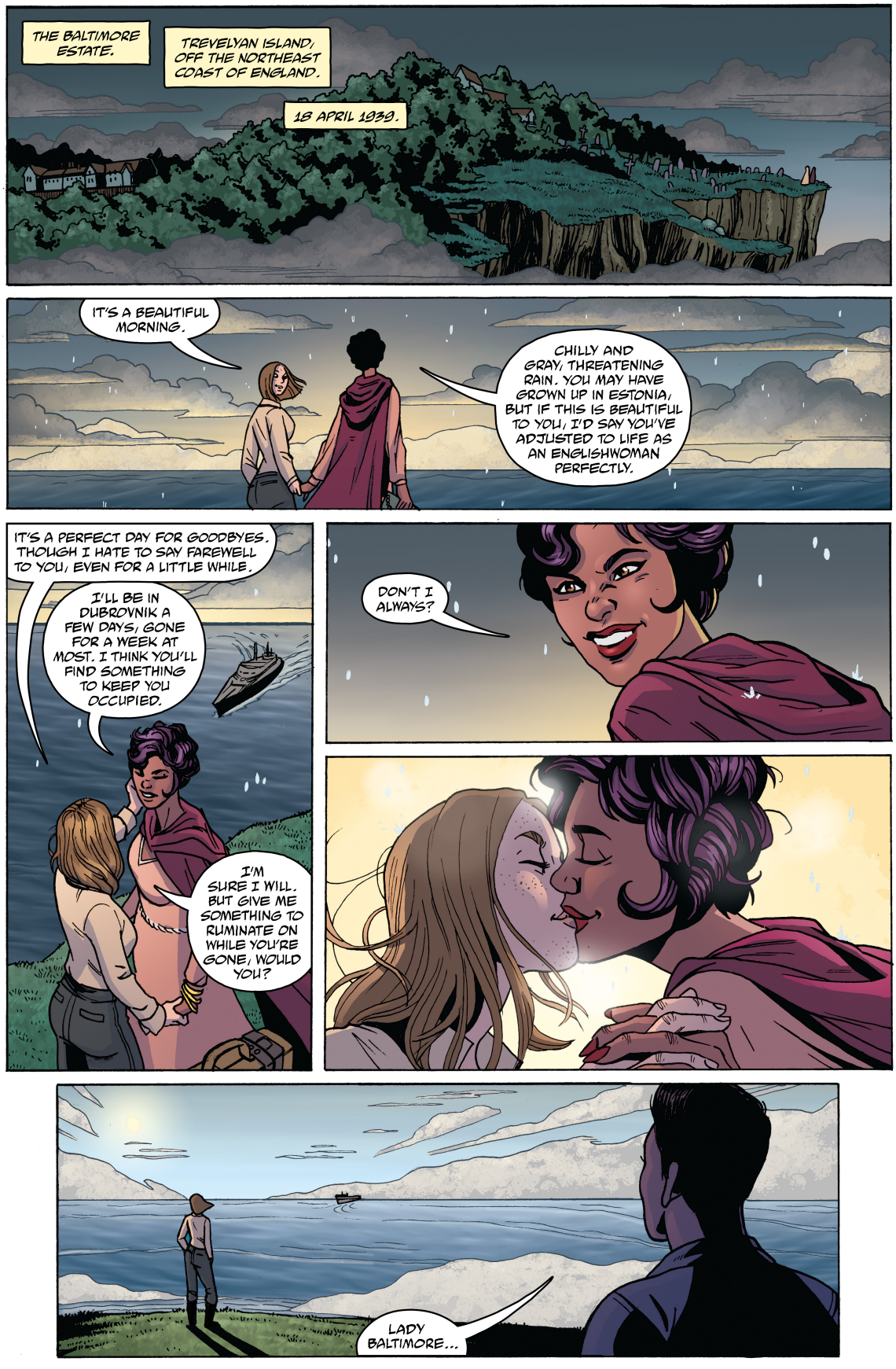
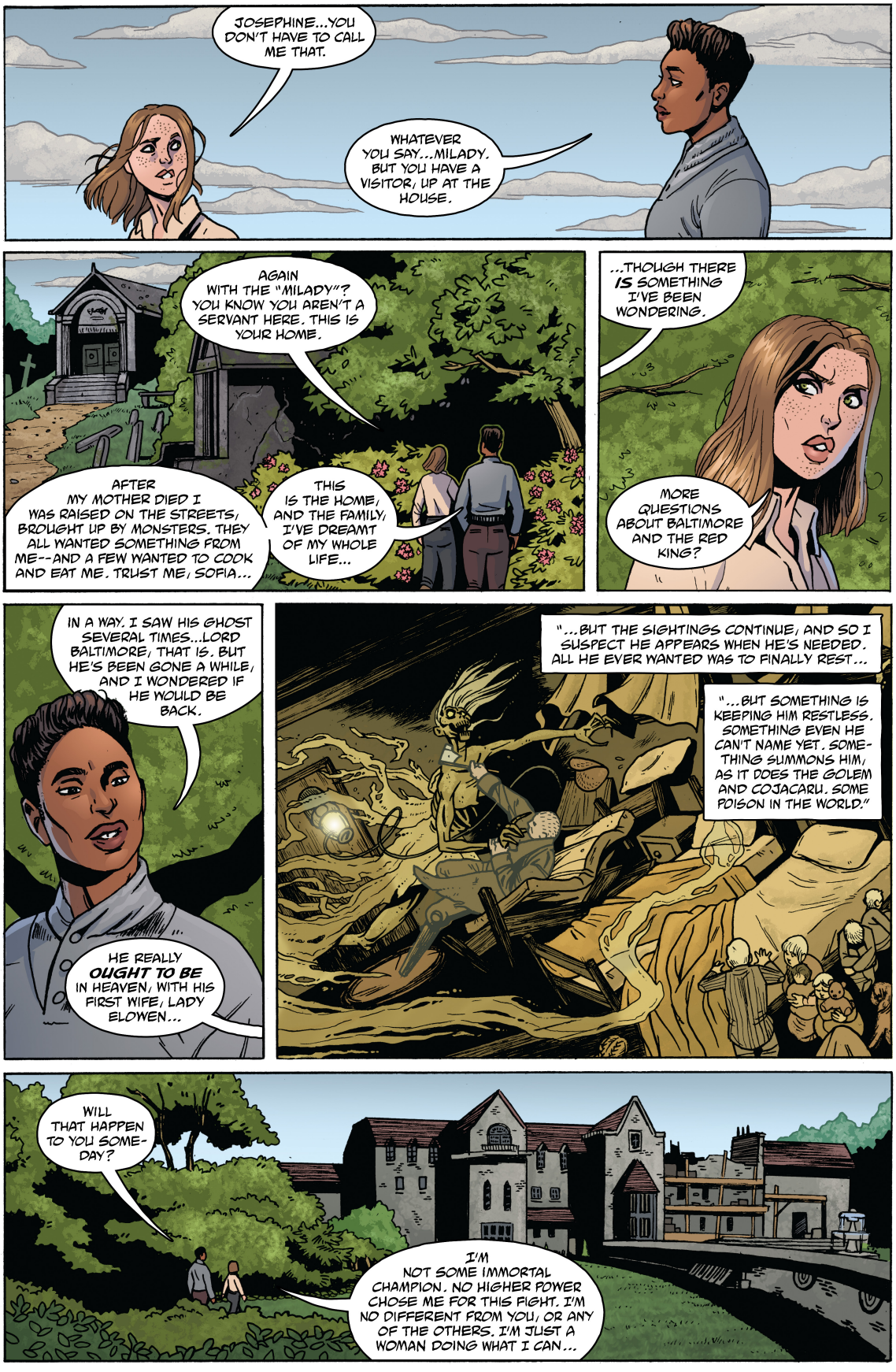
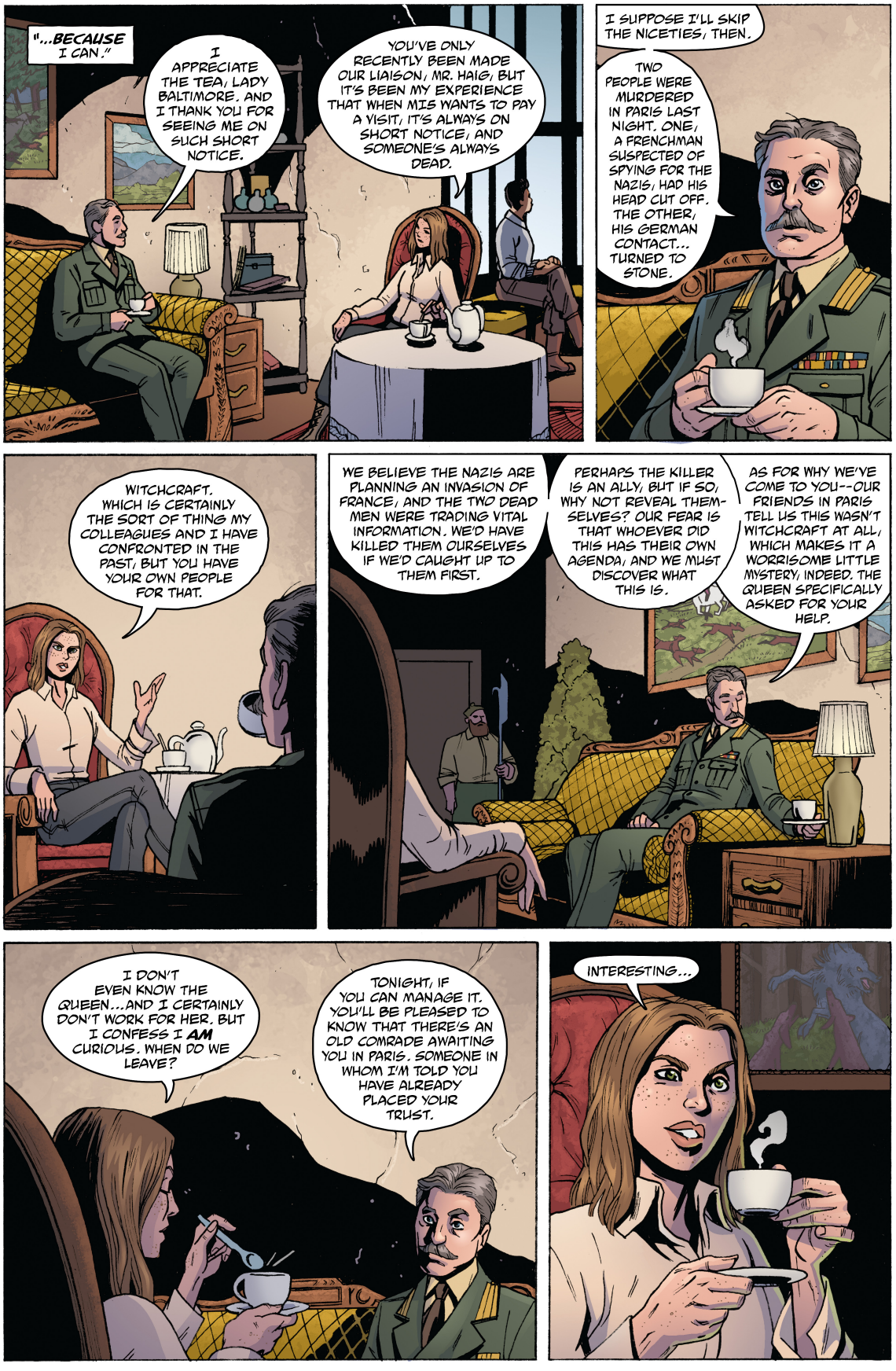
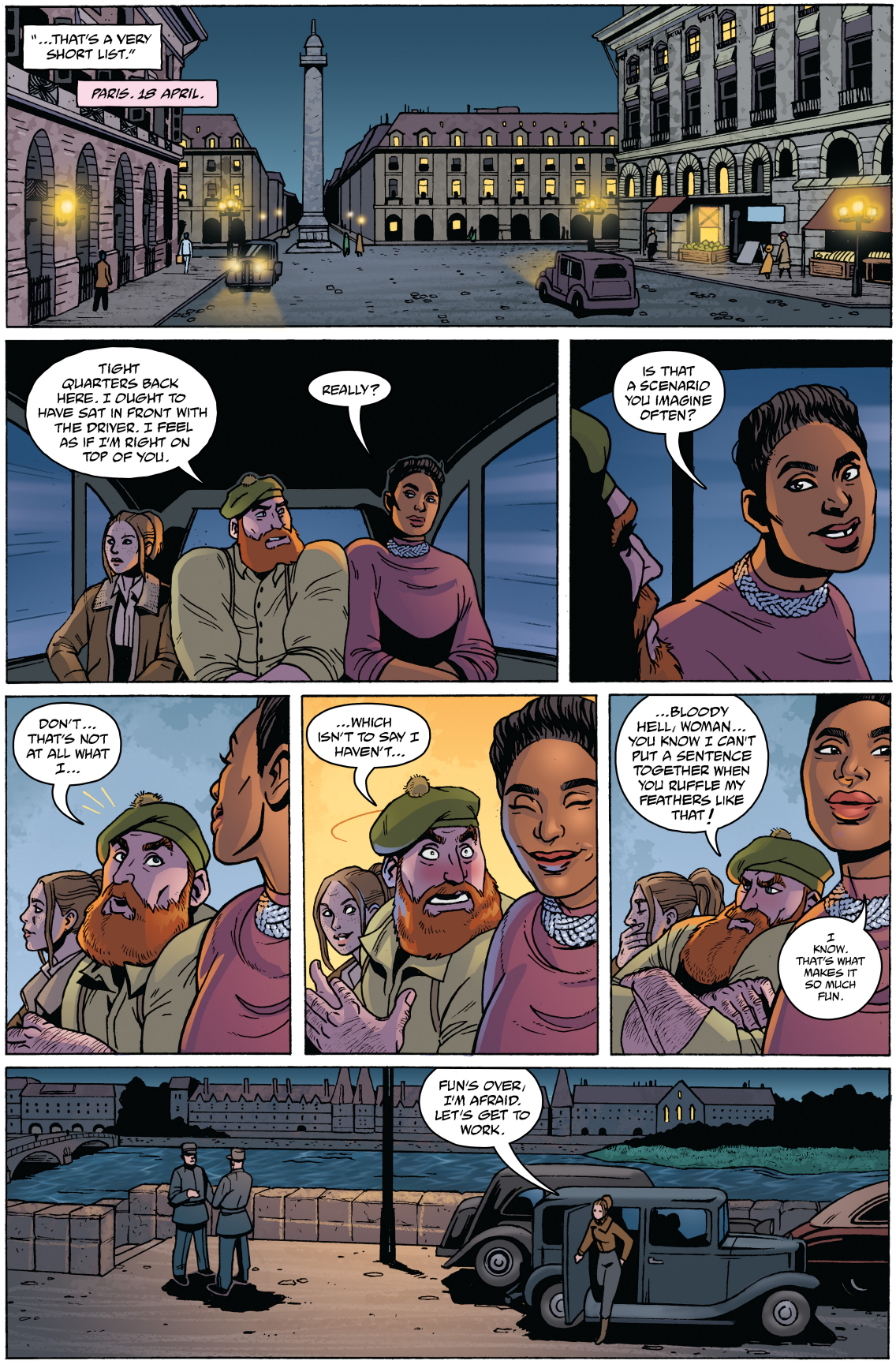
*TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH

VERDAMMT!
TOO LATE FOR THAT.
AHH!
SHUNK
⟨RUN, LITTLE SPY.⟩
⟨FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WILL DO YOU.⟩
≤HHUNNFF HHUNNFF≤
HHSSSSSSSSS

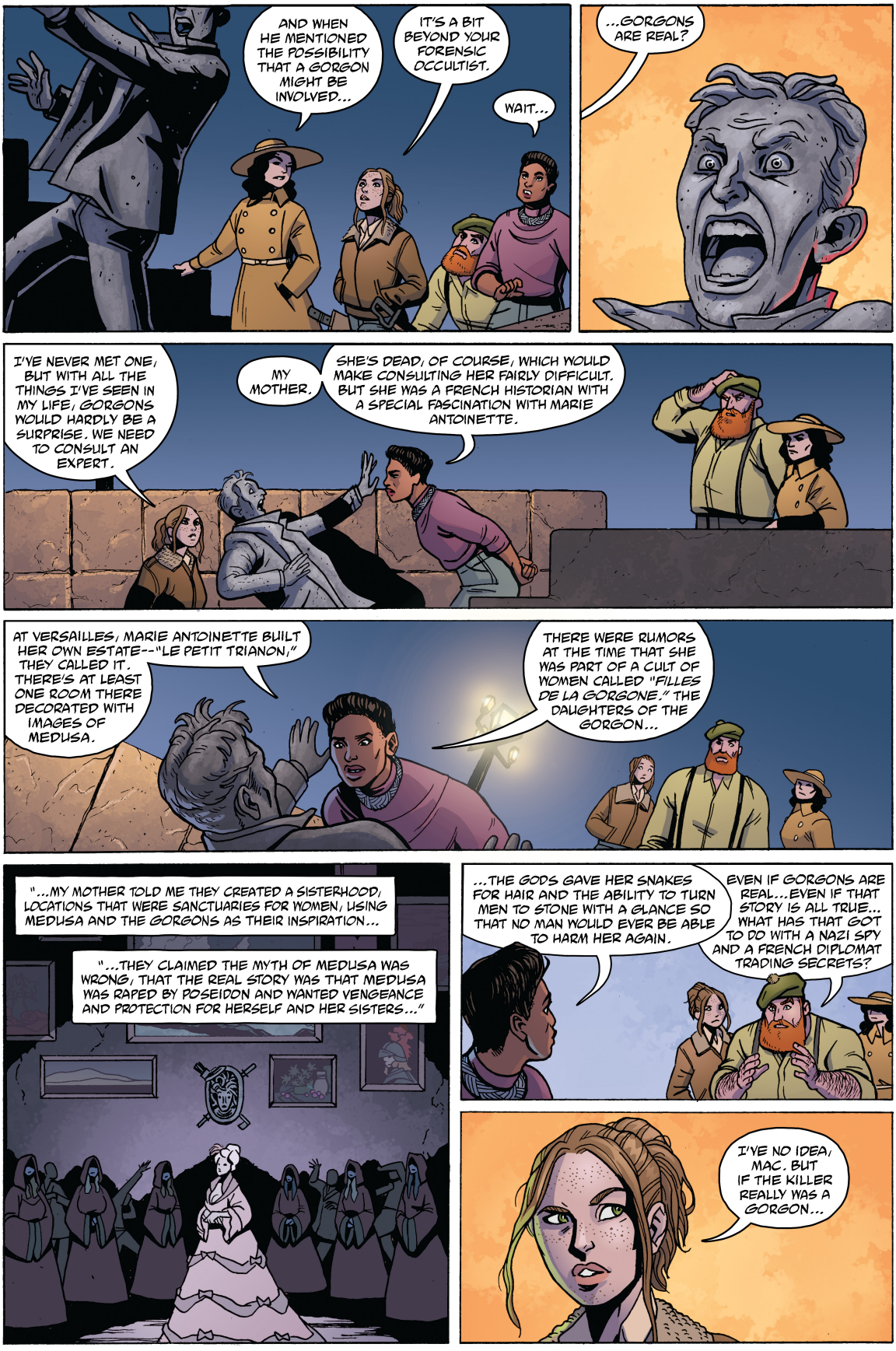

THE BALTIMORE ESTATE.
TREVELYAN ISLAND, OFF THE NORTHEAST COAST OF ENGLAND.
18 APRIL 1939.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL MORNING.
CHILLY AND GRAY, THREATENING RAIN. YOU MAY HAVE GROWN UP IN ESTONIA, BUT IF THIS IS BEAUTIFUL TO YOU, I'D SAY YOU'VE ADJUSTED TO LIFE AS AN ENGLISHWOMAN PERFECTLY.
IT'S A PERFECT DAY FOR GOODBYES. THOUGH I HATE TO SAY FAREWELL TO YOU, EVEN FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
I'LL BE IN DUBROVNIK A FEW DAYS, GONE FOR A WEEK AT MOST. I THINK YOU'LL FIND SOMETHING TO KEEP YOU OCCUPIED.
I'M SURE I WILL. BUT GIVE ME SOMETHING TO RUMINATE ON WHILE YOU'RE GONE, WOULD YOU?
DON'T I ALWAYS?
LADY BALTIMORE...

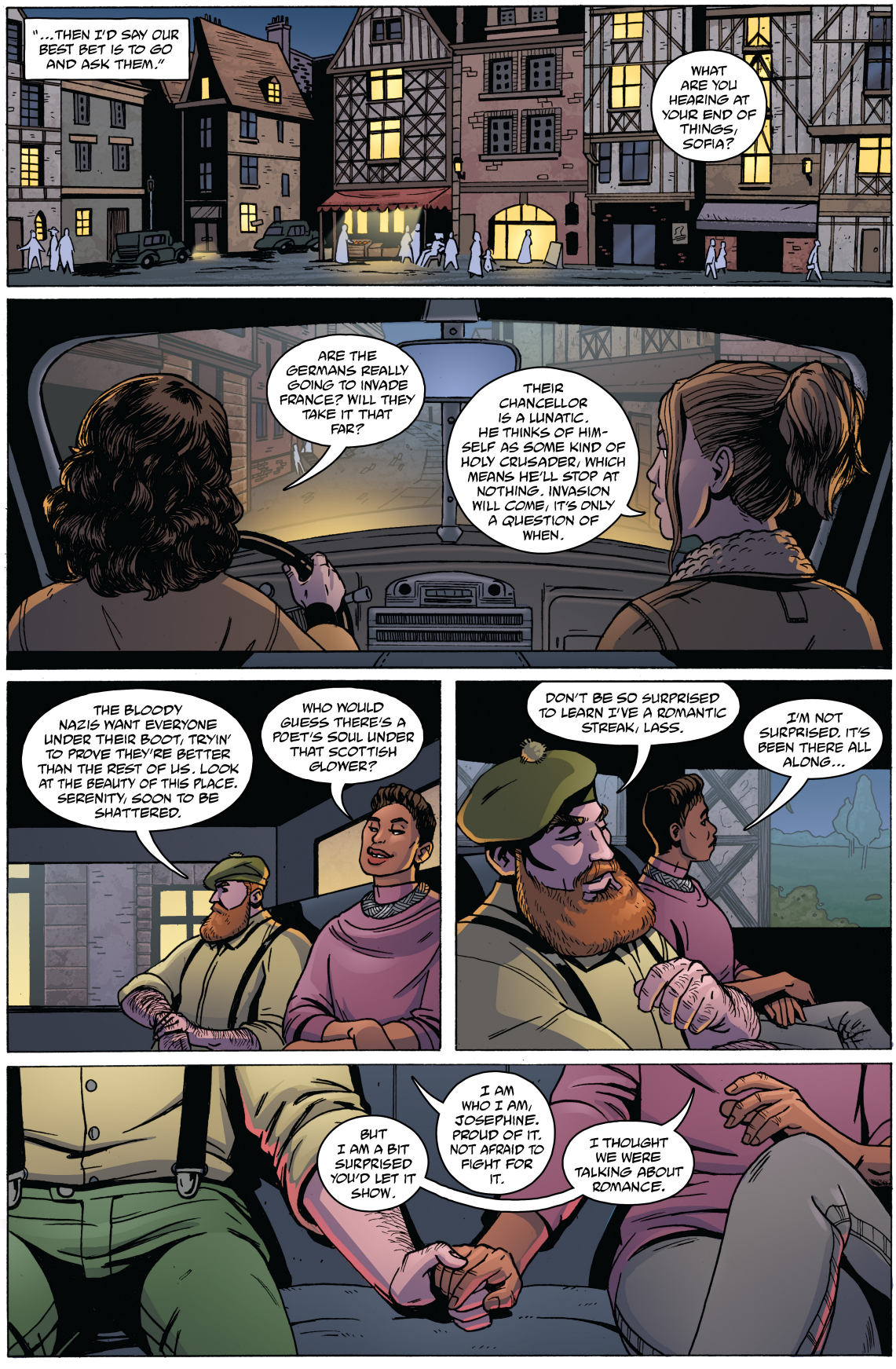

JOSEPHINE...YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL ME THAT.
WHATEVER YOU SAY...MILADY. BUT YOU HAVE A VISITOR, UP AT THE HOUSE.
AGAIN WITH THE "MILADY"? YOU KNOW YOU AREN'T A SERVANT HERE. THIS IS YOUR HOME.
AFTER MY MOTHER DIED I WAS RAISED ON THE STREETS, BROUGHT UP BY MONSTERS. THEY ALL WANTED SOMETHING FROM ME--AND A FEW WANTED TO COOK AND EAT ME. TRUST ME, SOFIA...
THIS IS THE HOME, AND THE FAMILY, I'VE DREAMT OF MY WHOLE LIFE...
...THOUGH THERE IS SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WONDERING.
MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT BALTIMORE AND THE RED KING?
IN A WAY. I SAW HIS GHOST SEVERAL TIMES...LORD BALTIMORE, THAT IS. BUT HE'S BEEN GONE A WHILE, AND I WONDERED IF HE WOULD BE BACK.
HE REALLY OUGHT TO BE IN HEAVEN, WITH HIS FIRST WIFE, LADY ELOWEN...
"...BUT THE SIGHTINGS CONTINUE, AND SO I SUSPECT HE APPEARS WHEN HE'S NEEDED. ALL HE EVER WANTED WAS TO FINALLY REST...
"...BUT SOMETHING IS KEEPING HIM RESTLESS. SOMETHING EVEN HE CAN'T NAME YET. SOMETHING SUMMONS HIM, AS IT DOES THE GOLEM AND COJACARU. SOME POISON IN THE WORLD."
WILL THAT HAPPEN TO YOU SOMEDAY?
I'M NOT SOME IMMORTAL CHAMPION. NO HIGHER POWER CHOSE ME FOR THIS FIGHT. I'M NO DIFFERENT FROM YOU, OR ANY OF THE OTHERS. I'M JUST A WOMAN DOING WHAT I CAN...

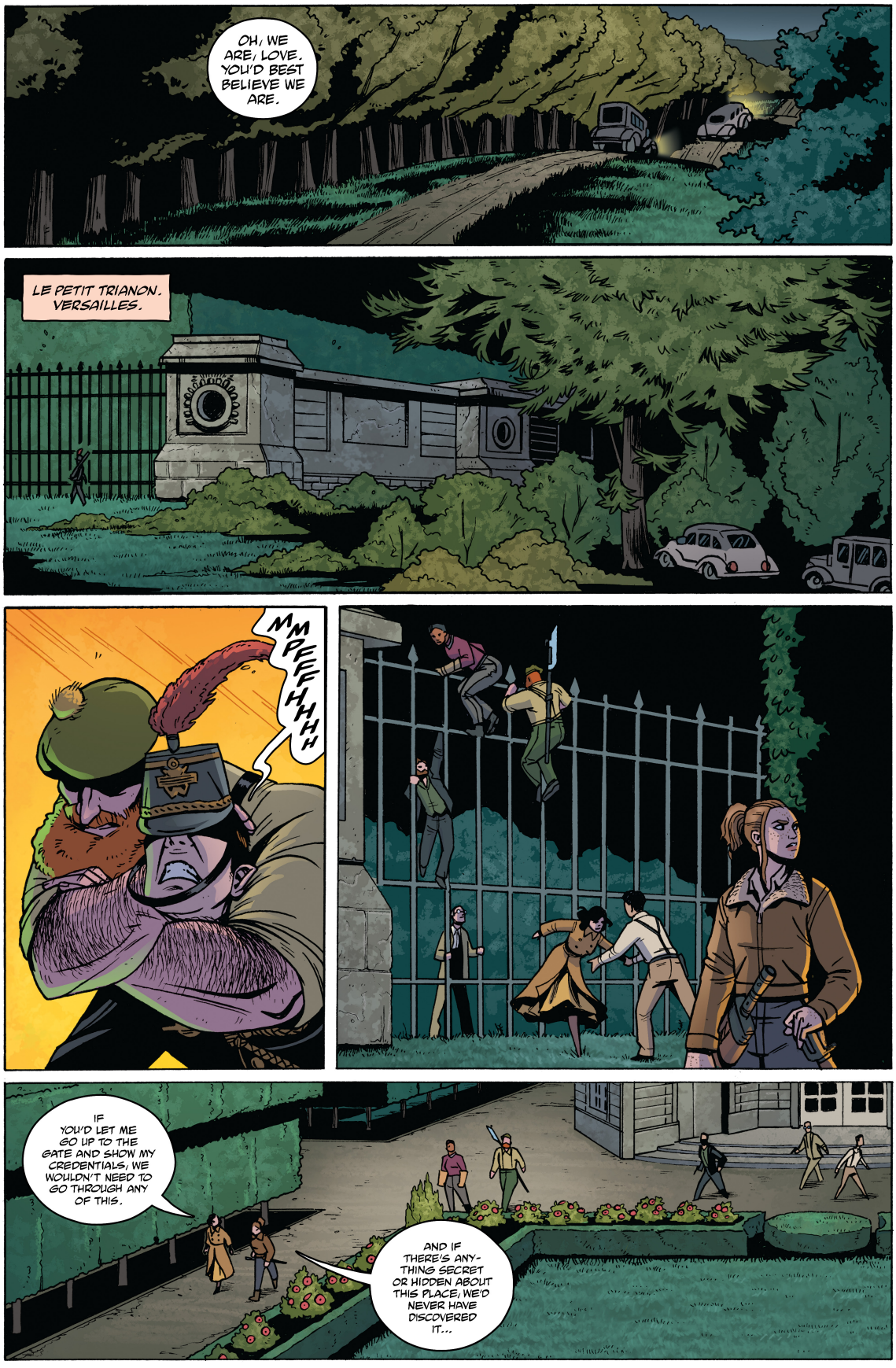

"...BECAUSE I CAN."
I APPRECIATE THE TEA, LADY BALTIMORE. AND I THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
YOU'VE ONLY RECENTLY BEEN MADE OUR LIAISON, MR. HAIG, BUT IT'S BEEN MY EXPERIENCE THAT WHEN MI5 WANTS TO PAY A VISIT, IT'S ALWAYS ON SHORT NOTICE, AND SOMEONE'S ALWAYS DEAD.
I SUPPOSE I'LL SKIP THE NICETIES, THEN.
TWO PEOPLE WERE MURDERED IN PARIS LAST NIGHT. ONE, A FRENCHMAN SUSPECTED OF SPYING FOR THE NAZIS, HAD HIS HEAD CUT OFF. THE OTHER, HIS GERMAN CONTACT... TURNED TO STONE.
WITCHCRAFT. WHICH IS CERTAINLY THE SORT OF THING MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE CONFRONTED IN THE PAST, BUT YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PEOPLE FOR THAT.
WE BELIEVE THE NAZIS ARE PLANNING AN INVASION OF FRANCE, AND THE TWO DEAD MEN WERE TRADING VITAL INFORMATION. WE'D HAVE KILLED THEM OURSELVES IF WE'D CAUGHT UP TO THEM FIRST.
PERHAPS THE KILLER IS AN ALLY, BUT IF SO, WHY NOT REVEAL THEMSELVES? OUR FEAR IS THAT WHOEVER DID THIS HAS THEIR OWN AGENDA, AND WE MUST DISCOVER WHAT THIS IS.
AS FOR WHY WE'VE COME TO YOU--OUR FRIENDS IN PARIS TELL US THIS WASN'T WITCHCRAFT AT ALL, WHICH MAKES IT A WORRISOME LITTLE MYSTERY, INDEED. THE QUEEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR YOUR HELP.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE QUEEN...AND I CERTAINLY DON'T WORK FOR HER. BUT I CONFESS I AM CURIOUS. WHEN DO WE LEAVE?
TONIGHT, IF YOU CAN MANAGE IT. YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THERE'S AN OLD COMRADE AWAITING YOU IN PARIS. SOMEONE IN WHOM I'M TOLD YOU HAVE ALREADY PLACED YOUR TRUST.
INTERESTING...


"...THAT'S A VERY SHORT LIST."
PARIS. 18 APRIL.
TIGHT QUARTERS BACK HERE. I OUGHT TO HAVE SAT IN FRONT WITH THE DRIVER. I FEEL AS IF I'M RIGHT ON TOP OF YOU.
REALLY?
IS THAT A SCENARIO YOU IMAGINE OFTEN?
DON'T... THAT'S NOT AT ALL WHAT I...
...WHICH ISN'T TO SAY I HAVEN'T...
...BLOODY HELL, WOMAN... YOU KNOW I CAN'T PUT A SENTENCE TOGETHER WHEN YOU RUFFLE MY FEATHERS LIKE THAT!
I KNOW. THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO MUCH FUN.
FUN'S OVER, I'M AFRAID. LET'S GET TO WORK.

...LADY BALTIMORE, HERE AT THE BEHEST OF THE BRITISH CROWN. I'M EXPECTED.
OUI, MADAME. FOLLOW ME.
LOVELY TO SEE YOU AGAIN, LADY BALTIMORE...
I'M GRATEFUL YOU AGREED TO COME TO PARIS.
CHARLOTTE! I THOUGHT IT MUST BE YOU. I WAS TOLD SOMEONE I TRUST WOULD MEET US HERE, AND I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYONE ELSE IN FRANCE.
THE FEELING'S MUTUAL, SOFIA. WHICH IS WHY I ASKED FOR YOU, AND WHY I INSISTED THE POLICE PRESERVE THE SCENE UNTIL YOUR ARRIVAL. I'M AFRAID IT'S JUST YOUR SORT OF THING.
CAMPEMENT 13
THIS IS WHERE THE FRENCH DIPLOMAT WAS BEHEADED--
IT'S TRAGIC THAT I'VE LIVED A LIFE WHERE YOU SEE SOMETHING LIKE THIS AND IMMEDIATELY THINK IT'S MY "SORT OF THING."
WELL...WHEN THE FORENSIC OCCULTIST FROM LE CABINET NOIR REACHED THE SCENE LAST NIGHT, HE CLAIMED HE FOUND NO TRACE OF WITCHCRAFT. THIS WASN'T ANY MAGICAL SPELL...


AND WHEN HE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY THAT A GORGON MIGHT BE INVOLVED...
IT'S A BIT BEYOND YOUR FORENSIC OCCULTIST.
WAIT...
...GORGONS ARE REAL?
I'VE NEVER MET ONE, BUT WITH ALL THE THINGS I'VE SEEN IN MY LIFE, GORGONS WOULD HARDLY BE A SURPRISE. WE NEED TO CONSULT AN EXPERT.
MY MOTHER.
SHE'S DEAD, OF COURSE, WHICH WOULD MAKE CONSULTING HER FAIRLY DIFFICULT. BUT SHE WAS A FRENCH HISTORIAN WITH A SPECIAL FASCINATION WITH MARIE ANTOINETTE.
AT VERSAILLES, MARIE ANTOINETTE BUILT HER OWN ESTATE--"LE PETIT TRIANON," THEY CALLED IT. THERE'S AT LEAST ONE ROOM THERE DECORATED WITH IMAGES OF MEDUSA.
THERE WERE RUMORS AT THE TIME THAT SHE WAS PART OF A CULT OF WOMEN CALLED "FILLES DE LA GORGONE." THE DAUGHTERS OF THE GORGON...
"...MY MOTHER TOLD ME THEY CREATED A SISTERHOOD, LOCATIONS THAT WERE SANCTUARIES FOR WOMEN, USING MEDUSA AND THE GORGONS AS THEIR INSPIRATION...
"...THEY CLAIMED THE MYTH OF MEDUSA WAS WRONG, THAT THE REAL STORY WAS THAT MEDUSA WAS RAPED BY POSEIDON AND WANTED VENGEANCE AND PROTECTION FOR HERSELF AND HER SISTERS..."
...THE GODS GAVE HER SNAKES FOR HAIR AND THE ABILITY TO TURN MEN TO STONE WITH A GLANCE SO THAT NO MAN WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO HARM HER AGAIN.
EVEN IF GORGONS ARE REAL...EVEN IF THAT STORY IS ALL TRUE... WHAT HAS THAT GOT TO DO WITH A NAZI SPY AND A FRENCH DIPLOMAT TRADING SECRETS?
I'VE NO IDEA, MAC. BUT IF THE KILLER REALLY WAS A GORGON...


"...THEN I'D SAY OUR BEST BET IS TO GO AND ASK THEM."
WHAT ARE YOU HEARING AT YOUR END OF THINGS, SOFIA?
ARE THE GERMANS REALLY GOING TO INVADE FRANCE? WILL THEY TAKE IT THAT FAR?
THEIR CHANCELLOR IS A LUNATIC. HE THINKS OF HIMSELF AS SOME KIND OF HOLY CRUSADER, WHICH MEANS HE'LL STOP AT NOTHING. INVASION WILL COME, IT'S ONLY A QUESTION OF WHEN.
THE BLOODY NAZIS WANT EVERYONE UNDER THEIR BOOT, TRYIN' TO PROVE THEY'RE BETTER THAN THE REST OF US. LOOK AT THE BEAUTY OF THIS PLACE. SERENITY, SOON TO BE SHATTERED.
WHO WOULD GUESS THERE'S A POET'S SOUL UNDER THAT SCOTTISH GLOWER?
DON'T BE SO SURPRISED TO LEARN I'VE A ROMANTIC STREAK, LASS.
I'M NOT SURPRISED. IT'S BEEN THERE ALL ALONG...
BUT I AM A BIT SURPRISED YOU'D LET IT SHOW.
I AM WHO I AM, JOSEPHINE. PROUD OF IT. NOT AFRAID TO FIGHT FOR IT.
I THOUGHT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT ROMANCE.


OH, WE ARE, LOVE. YOU'D BEST BELIEVE WE ARE.
LE PETIT TRIANON. VERSAILLES.
MMPFFHHHH
IF YOU'D LET ME GO UP TO THE GATE AND SHOW MY CREDENTIALS, WE WOULDN'T NEED TO GO THROUGH ANY OF THIS.
AND IF THERE'S ANY-THING SECRET OR HIDDEN ABOUT THIS PLACE, WE'D NEVER HAVE DISCOVERED IT...

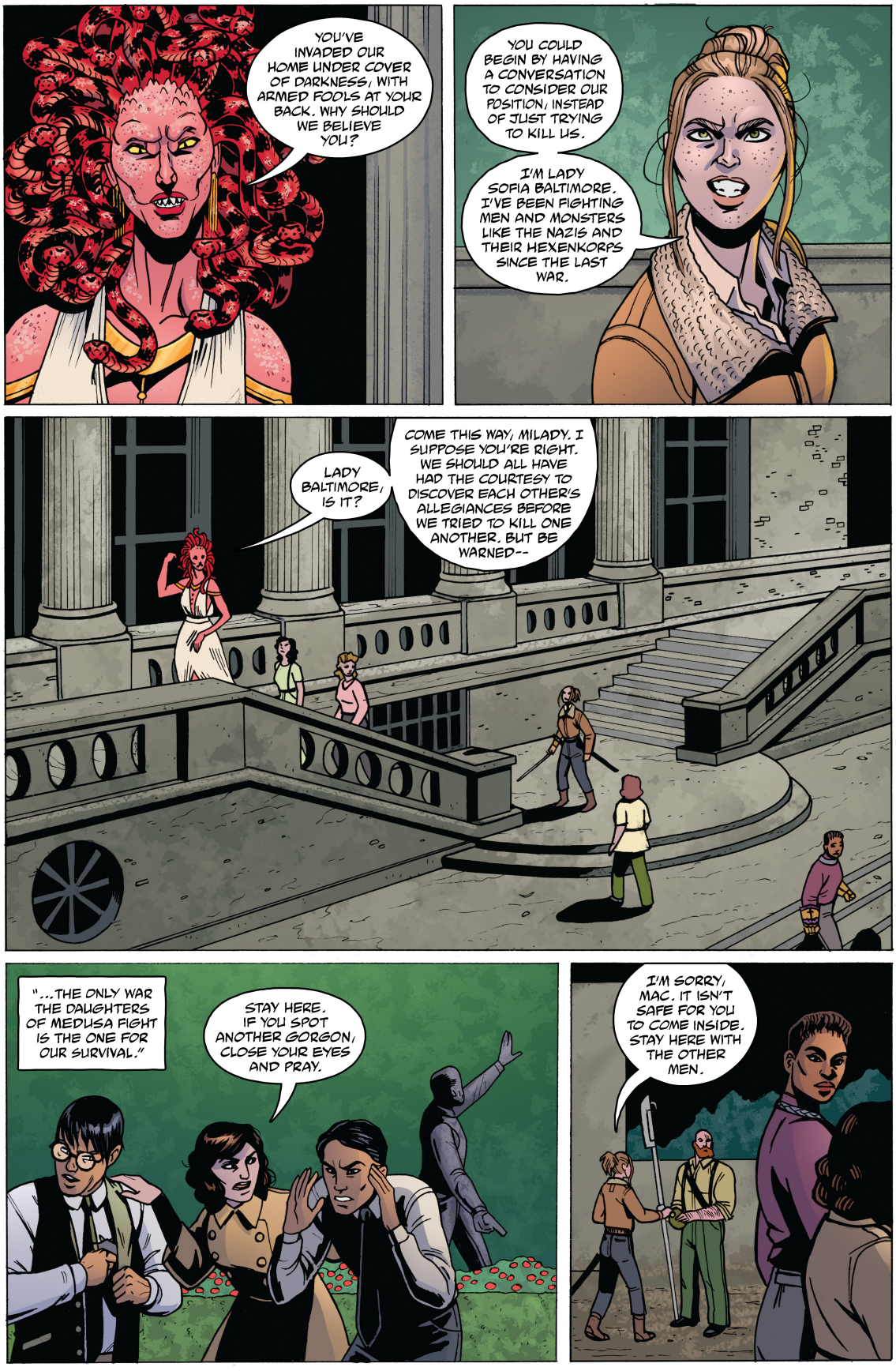
...YOU KNOW THAT AS WELL AS I DO.
FINE. BUT IF I END UP IN PRISON--
HUSH.
OH...
⟨YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE.⟩
I WON'T APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION. IT'S ENTIRELY INTENTIONAL. WE HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS AND THE "OFFICIAL" ANSWERS WON'T DO.
LADY BALTIMORE--
THERE ARE MORE OF THEM.

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE COME.
STAY RIGHT THERE!
SSHLNGG
MORE OF THEM!
AAAHH!
JOSEPHINE!
WHOMP
WORRY ABOUT HER, NOT ME!
SHE'S QUITE A DANCER.
DAMN IT, SOFIA, GET OUT OF THE WAY SO I CAN SHOOT HER!
SHOOT ME? WHO IS THE INTRUDER HERE?
HHHSSSSS

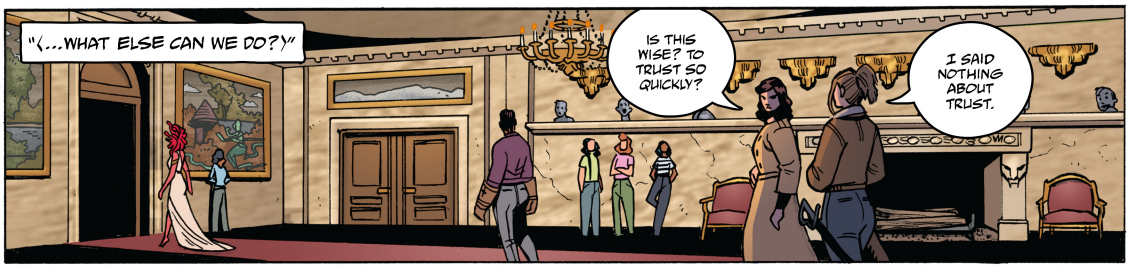
THWAACK
YOU'RE RIGHT...
BUT HERE WE ARE, NEVERTHELESS.
WE'D RATHER TALK THAN SPILL BLOOD...
...BUT WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF A LITTLE BLOOD, IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT.
BLAMM
BLAMM
UNNGHH
THAKK
⟨STAY WHERE YOU ARE! DO NOT--⟩
EH?

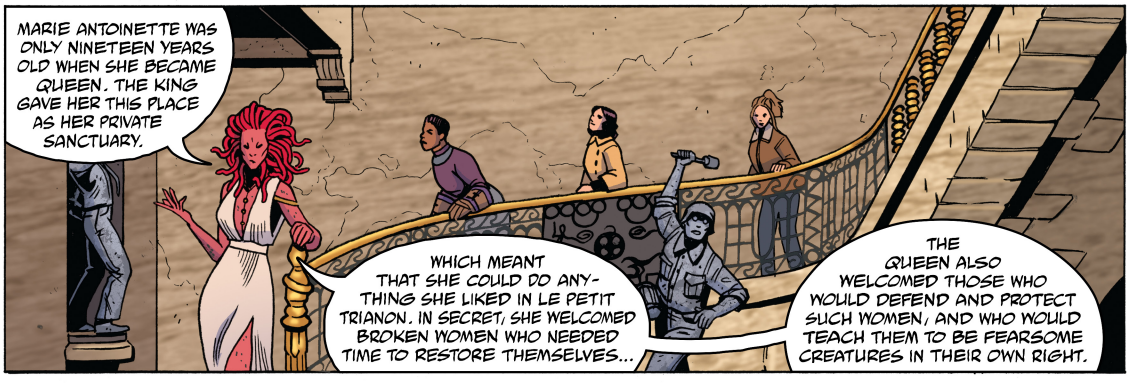
SSSSSSSSS
SSSSSS
SSSTUPID MAN!
OH, MY GOD!
UNHFF
CHARLOTTE! WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!
EEEEPPPP
GORGONS ARE REAL!
KRAK

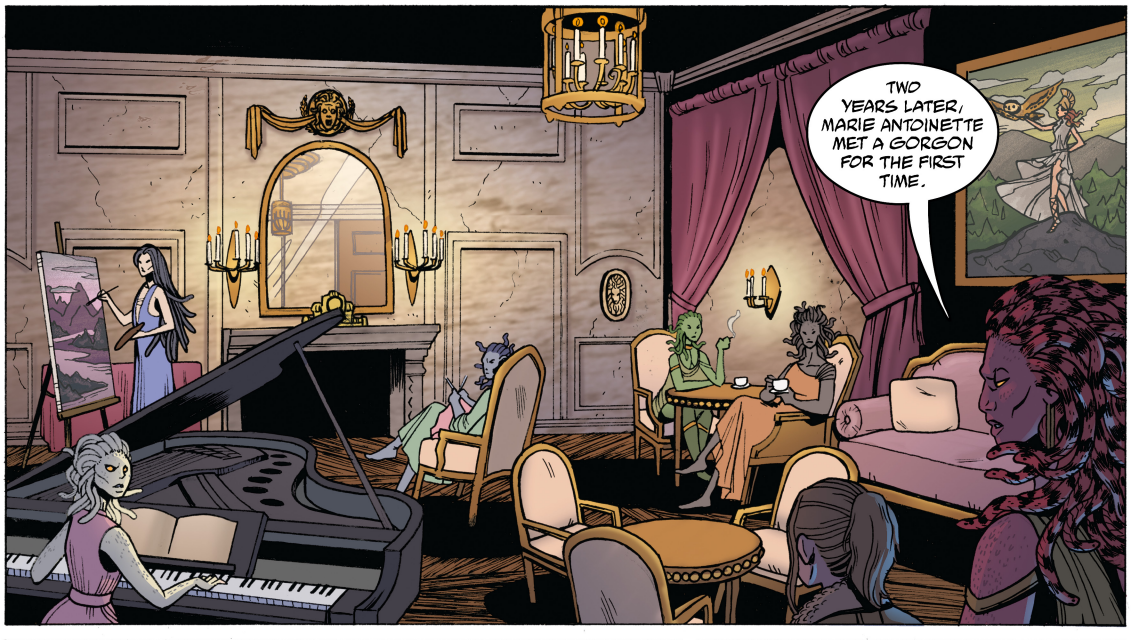
YOU TWO! CLOSE YOUR EYES AND RUN! RIGHT NOW! WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LOOK!
MAC! DON'T LOOK AT HER!
GET AWAY FROM MY PEOPLE!
SSSSSSS
LOOK AT YOU. MEN ARE IDIOTS, BUT YOU...
...AN HONORABLE WARRIOR WOULD NEVER SERVE THE NAZI SCUM!
SERVE THE...
WE DON'T SERVE THE NAZIS! A MAN WAS TURNED TO STONE IN PARIS LAST NIGHT, AND WE'RE HERE TO MAKE SURE THE GERMANS HAVEN'T RECRUITED GORGONS TO THEIR CAUSE!

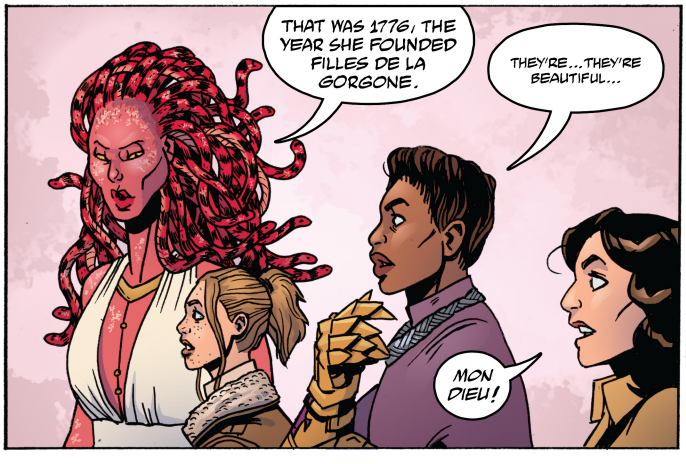

YOU'VE INVADED OUR HOME UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, WITH ARMED FOOLS AT YOUR BACK. WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE YOU?
YOU COULD BEGIN BY HAVING A CONVERSATION TO CONSIDER OUR POSITION, INSTEAD OF JUST TRYING TO KILL US.
I'M LADY SOFIA BALTIMORE. I'VE BEEN FIGHTING MEN AND MONSTERS LIKE THE NAZIS AND THEIR HEXENKORPS SINCE THE LAST WAR.
LADY BALTIMORE, IS IT?
COME THIS WAY, MILADY. I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. WE SHOULD ALL HAVE HAD THE COURTESY TO DISCOVER EACH OTHER'S ALLEGIANCES BEFORE WE TRIED TO KILL ONE ANOTHER. BUT BE WARNED--
"...THE ONLY WAR THE DAUGHTERS OF MEDUSA FIGHT IS THE ONE FOR OUR SURVIVAL."
STAY HERE. IF YOU SPOT ANOTHER GORGON, CLOSE YOUR EYES AND PRAY.
I'M SORRY, MAC. IT ISN'T SAFE FOR YOU TO COME INSIDE. STAY HERE WITH THE OTHER MEN.

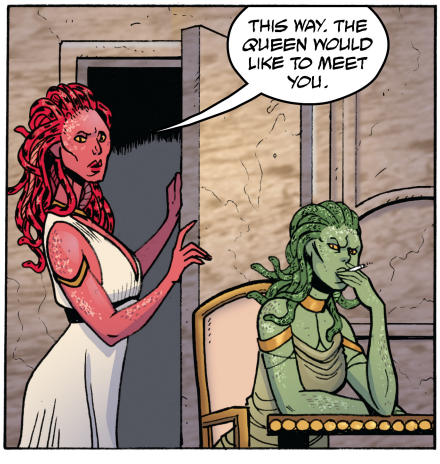
BUT...WAIT...
JOSEPHINE?
WILL YOU BE SAFE IN THERE, WITH THEM?
I...
YOU'RE KIND TO WORRY. BUT I'LL BE FINE.
SMEKK
SHE WILL BE, YOU KNOW. SHE'S IN NO MORE DANGER THAN I AM.
(THE WORLD IS TERRIFYING.)
(AND SO WE FIGHT.)

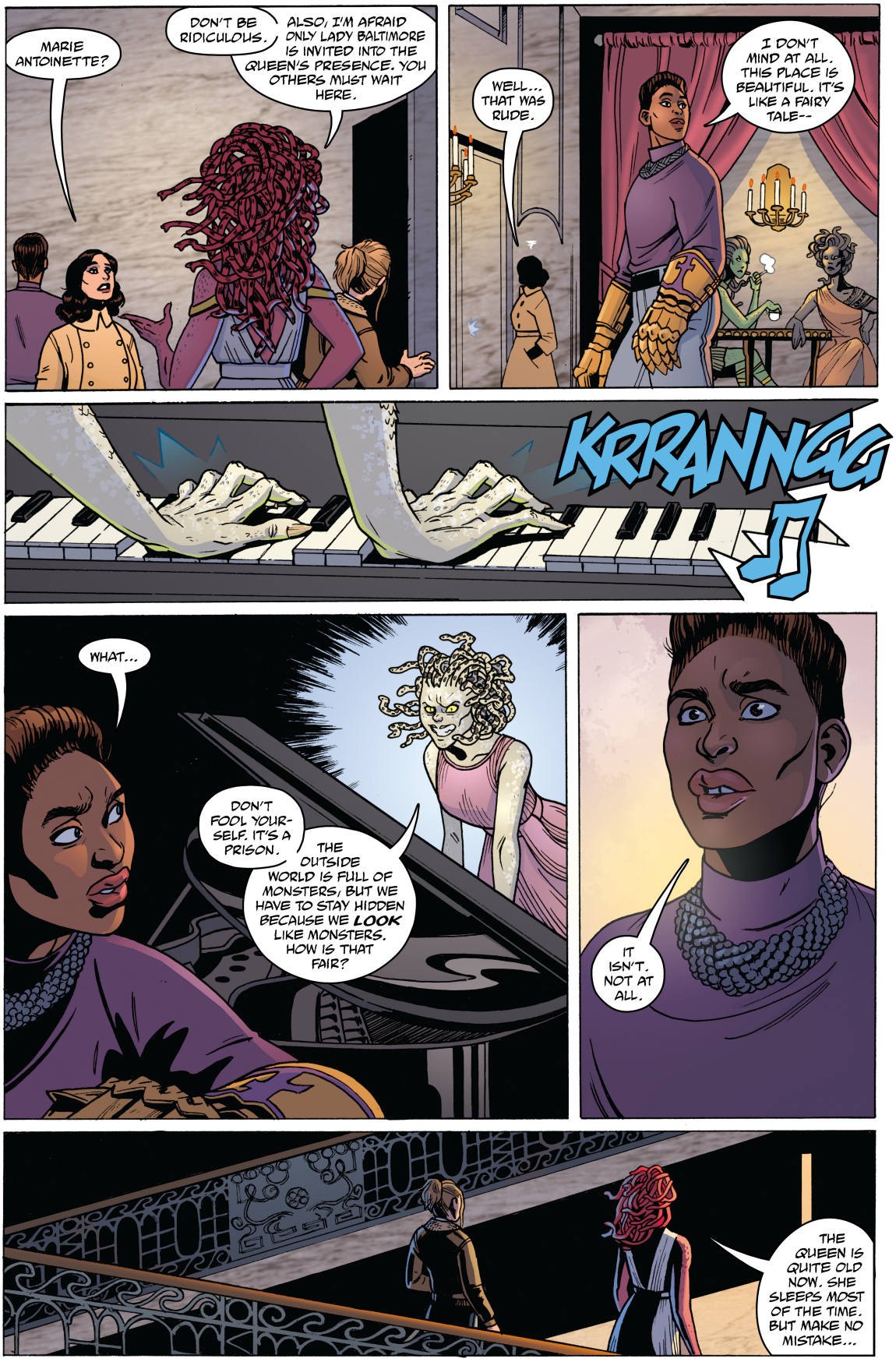

"(...WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?)"
IS THIS WISE? TO TRUST SO QUICKLY?
I SAID NOTHING ABOUT TRUST.

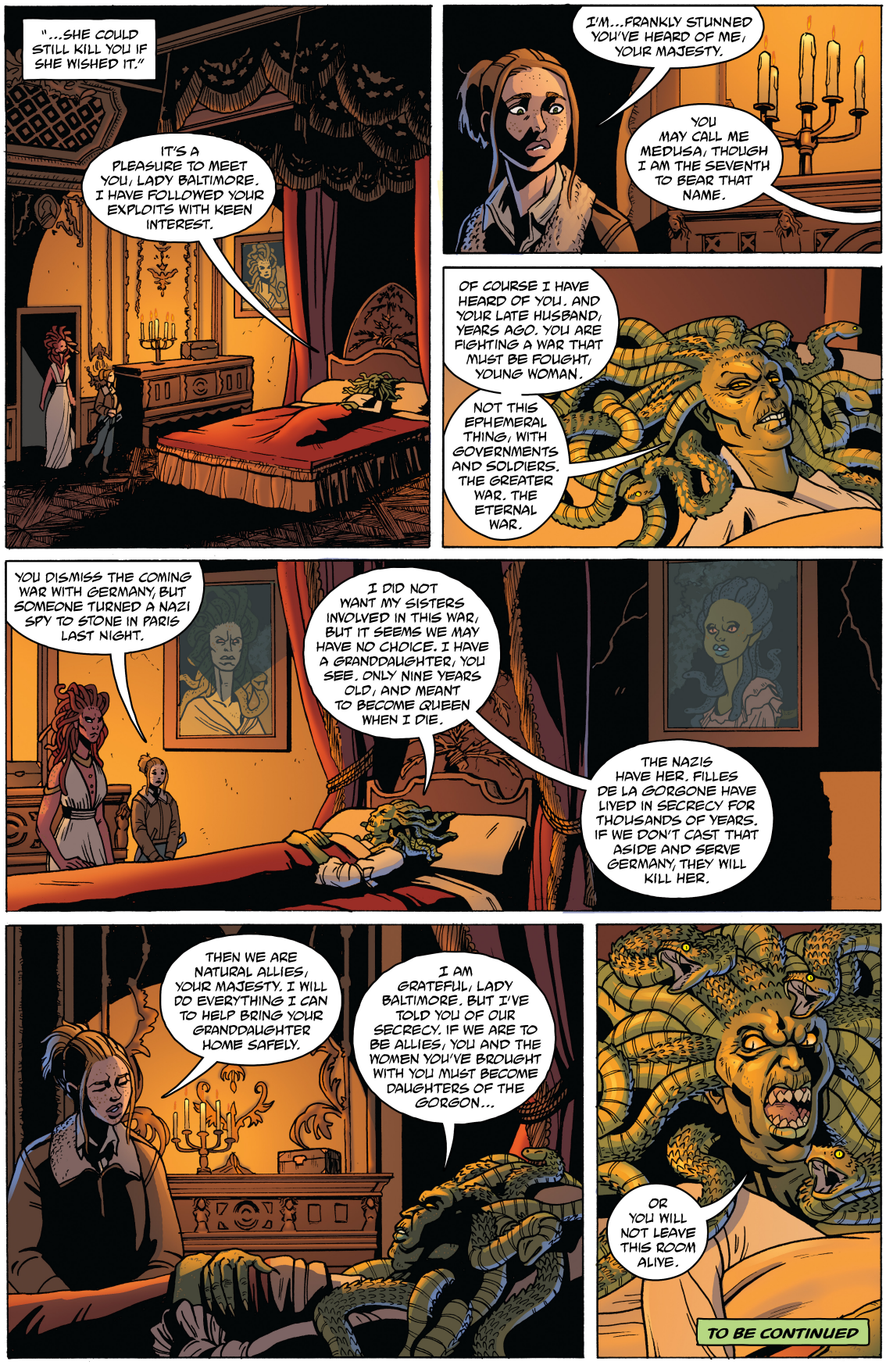

MARIE ANTOINETTE WAS ONLY NINETEEN YEARS OLD WHEN SHE BECAME QUEEN. THE KING GAVE HER THIS PLACE AS HER PRIVATE SANCTUARY.
WHICH MEANT THAT SHE COULD DO ANY-THING SHE LIKED IN LE PETIT TRIANON. IN SECRET, SHE WELCOMED BROKEN WOMEN WHO NEEDED TIME TO RESTORE THEMSELVES...
THE QUEEN ALSO WELCOMED THOSE WHO WOULD DEFEND AND PROTECT SUCH WOMEN, AND WHO WOULD TEACH THEM TO BE FEARSOME CREATURES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.


TWO YEARS LATER, MARIE ANTOINETTE MET A GORGON FOR THE FIRST TIME.


THAT WAS 1776, THE YEAR SHE FOUNDED FILLES DE LA GORGONE.
THEY'RE...THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL...
MON DIEU!


THIS WAY. THE QUEEN WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU.


MARIE ANTOINETTE?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
ALSO, I'M AFRAID ONLY LADY BALTIMORE IS INVITED INTO THE QUEEN'S PRESENCE. YOU OTHERS MUST WAIT HERE.
WELL... THAT WAS RUDE.
I DON'T MIND AT ALL. THIS PLACE IS BEAUTIFUL. IT'S LIKE A FAIRY TALE--
KRRANNGG
WHAT...
DON'T FOOL YOURSELF. IT'S A PRISON.
THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS FULL OF MONSTERS, BUT WE HAVE TO STAY HIDDEN BECAUSE WE LOOK LIKE MONSTERS. HOW IS THAT FAIR?
IT ISN'T. NOT AT ALL.
THE QUEEN IS QUITE OLD NOW. SHE SLEEPS MOST OF THE TIME. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE...


"...SHE COULD STILL KILL YOU IF SHE WISHED IT."
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, LADY BALTIMORE. I HAVE FOLLOWED YOUR EXPLOITS WITH KEEN INTEREST.
I'M...FRANKLY STUNNED YOU'VE HEARD OF ME, YOUR MAJESTY.
YOU MAY CALL ME MEDUSA, THOUGH I AM THE SEVENTH TO BEAR THAT NAME.
OF COURSE I HAVE HEARD OF YOU. AND YOUR LATE HUSBAND, YEARS AGO. YOU ARE FIGHTING A WAR THAT MUST BE FOUGHT, YOUNG WOMAN.
NOT THIS EPHEMERAL THING, WITH GOVERNMENTS AND SOLDIERS. THE GREATER WAR. THE ETERNAL WAR.
YOU DISMISS THE COMING WAR WITH GERMANY, BUT SOMEONE TURNED A NAZI SPY TO STONE IN PARIS LAST NIGHT.
I DID NOT WANT MY SISTERS INVOLVED IN THIS WAR, BUT IT SEEMS WE MAY HAVE NO CHOICE. I HAVE A GRANDDAUGHTER, YOU SEE. ONLY NINE YEARS OLD, AND MEANT TO BECOME QUEEN WHEN I DIE.
THE NAZIS HAVE HER. FILLES DE LA GORGONE HAVE LIVED IN SECRECY FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. IF WE DON'T CAST THAT ASIDE AND SERVE GERMANY, THEY WILL KILL HER.
THEN WE ARE NATURAL ALLIES, YOUR MAJESTY. I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP BRING YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER HOME SAFELY.
I AM GRATEFUL, LADY BALTIMORE. BUT I'VE TOLD YOU OF OUR SECRECY. IF WE ARE TO BE ALLIES, YOU AND THE WOMEN YOU'VE BROUGHT WITH YOU MUST BECOME DAUGHTERS OF THE GORGON...
OR YOU WILL NOT LEAVE THIS ROOM ALIVE.
TO BE CONTINUED